

WELLS (F.)

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## DIVORCE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

AN EXTRACT FROM THE FORTY-FIRST REGISTRATION REPORT.

BY

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EDITOR OF THE REPORT.

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*Mean Monthly Temperature (Fahrenheit), 1877-1882.*

MONTHS.	BOSTON.					
	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.
January, . . .	23·2	27·6	23·9	34·8	21·9	26·4
February, . . .	32·5	29·1	23·6	32·0	27·7	30·4
March, . . .	34·4	39·4	33·4	32·8	36·4	35·3
April, . . .	43·9	47·2	42·2	46·2	42·8	42·0
May, . . .	55·2	55·7	59·9	62·6	54·9	49·8
June, . . .	66·8	64·1	64·1	67·3	60·6	65·9
July, . . .	70·1	72·9	70·0	70·1	68·5	71·7
August, . . .	71·0	67·8	68·1	68·9	69·5	69·7
September, . . .	63·9	63·1	60·7	64·1	65·7	62·7
October, . . .	50·8	54·9	56·0	50·9	53·3	54·6
November, . . .	40·2	39·7	39·2	37·1	42·4	37·9
December, . . .	35·0	29·5	32·4	25·8	37·8	30·5
Average, . . .	49·2	49·3	48·0	49·6	48·5	48·1





## DIVORCES.

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### DIVORCES IN MASSACHUSETTS.—1863–1882.

The subject of divorce is one which should be properly studied in connection with that of marriage, but owing to the unavoidable delays attendant this year upon the compilation of new statistics, it has become necessary to present the matter in a supplementary form.

The late date, upon which the act providing for the return of divorces was passed, must be an excuse for whatever faults may be thought to exist in the method of tabulation. The statistics, however, are reliable; since, for the years previous to 1879, they were gathered directly from the dockets of the courts by a force especially detailed from the Bureau of Statistics of Labor, to which Bureau acknowledgment is duly made for the assistance rendered in the preparation of this Report. For the years 1879–1882 the clerks of the courts have made their returns upon blanks framed in accordance with the law. In a few instances the chief cause for divorce was not made prominent in these returns, and as it was deemed advisable to tabulate simply the statute causes, the multiple specifications have been reduced sufficiently accurately to the nine legal grounds for which divorce may be granted.

In a very few cases *nisi* decrees have been returned as absolute—the number, however, being so inappreciably small that the results have been in no wise materially affected.

### HISTORY OF DIVORCE LEGISLATION.

The statistics of divorce have assumed an unusual importance in discussing the social condition of the people, from the fact that the numbers have so strikingly increased during the past twenty years. Hence it is necessary to briefly review the

history of the legislation upon this subject, in order that an intelligent analysis of the following tables may be made.

The first statute relating to divorce was passed on March 16, 1786 — five and one-half years after the first legislature had met under the Constitution of Massachusetts. This act provided that a full divorce, or divorce from the bond of matrimony, might be granted for two causes only, viz., adultery and impotency; while a limited divorce, or divorce from bed and board, might be decreed for the additional cause of extreme cruelty. By an act passed in 1810 a limited divorce was authorized to the wife, when her husband had utterly deserted her, or had grossly or wantonly and cruelly neglected or refused to provide sufficient for her maintenance.

In 1836 it was enacted that sentence of imprisonment of either party at hard labor, for a period of seven years or more, should be added to adultery and impotency as a cause for full divorce; while limited divorce might be granted to either party for extreme cruelty or utter desertion, and to the wife for wanton, cruel and gross refusal or neglect on the part of the husband to provide sufficient maintenance for her.

By the Acts of 1838 wilful and utter desertion for five consecutive years became an additional cause for full divorce in favor of the innocent party; while in 1850 it was still further provided that full divorce might be decreed to either party, when the other separates therefrom and joins, and for three years remains united with any religious sect or society, believing; or professing to believe, that the relation of husband and wife is void and unlawful.

No further legislation upon this subject took place until the general revision of the Statutes in 1860. In this year the General Statutes authorized full divorce for adultery, impotency, union for three years with a religious sect denying the validity of marriage, imprisonment at hard labor for five years, and desertion for five consecutive years to the deserting as well as to the deserted party. In the latter case a proviso was introduced limiting divorce to the deserting party, only after it had been shown that the desertion was for extreme cruelty, or, in case of the wife, neglect by her husband to provide. By the same Statutes, limited divorce might be granted for extreme cruelty, complete desertion, gross and confirmed habits of in-



toxication contracted after marriage, cruel and abusive treatment, and in favor of the wife, for neglect on the part of the husband to properly maintain her. The chapter also retains the provision of 1857, by which a limited divorce may be made absolute, on petition of the party to whom the original limited divorce had been granted, after a separation of five consecutive years, and on the petition of the guilty party after the separation had continued for ten consecutive years.

In 1867 it was enacted that all divorces might be decreed *nisi*, which *nisi* decrees might be made absolute, in the discretion of the court, after the lapse of six months. By the Acts of 1870 all limited divorces, from bed and board, were thenceforth prohibited; all pending libels for limited divorce were to be considered as libels for full divorce, and all existing decrees for limited divorce were to be treated as *nisi* decrees under that law. Further, all the causes specified in the preceding paragraph, for which limited divorce had previously been provided, were thereafter to be considered as causes for full divorce, provided that in these cases decrees *nisi* should first be entered, which must be made absolute upon proof that the parties to the libel had lived apart for five consecutive years, and might be so made in the discretion of the court after the lapse of three years. Thus, in 1870, there were nine causes for which absolute divorce might be granted, except that in four of them a *nisi* decree must remain three years at least, before being made absolute.

In 1873 divorce *nisi* was prohibited, except as provided by the Statute of 1867, as mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The Acts of this year also decreed that thereafter a full divorce might be granted for all causes for which a *nisi* decree was then warranted; provided that, in the case of desertion, a complete separation should have existed for three consecutive years next preceding the filing of the libel. The law still further provided that a *nisi* decree might at once be made absolute, except in the case of desertion, when a separation for at least three consecutive years must have existed. It was also enacted by this law, that full divorce might be granted for gross and confirmed habits of intoxication, no matter at what period, whether before or after marriage, this habit had been contracted. By this enactment, then, there were nine causes for

which full divorce might be granted, except that desertion must have continued three years, while in any case a *nisi* decree might be entered by the court for six months.

In 1874 an act was passed which provided that all decrees of divorce must be rendered absolute and not *nisi*, whenever personal service is made on the libellee, or when the libel is entered at a term previous to the one in which the decree is granted. A further provision of this same act relating to *nisi* decrees was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the State; and consequently in 1875 it was enacted that any limited decree, or any decree *nisi*, might be made absolute after a separation of three years, upon the petition of the innocent party, and after five years upon the petition of either.

Finally, by an act passed in 1881, it was provided that all decrees for divorce must be first entered *nisi*, to become absolute after the expiration of six months from the entry thereof, on application of either party to the clerk of the court, unless the court has for sufficient reason, upon application of any party interested, otherwise ordered. This same act decreed that the court, before which any libel for divorce is pending, may, without entering a decree of divorce, continue the same upon the docket from time to time, and during such continuance make such orders and decrees concerning a temporary separation, the separate maintenance of the wife and support of minor children, as may be deemed necessary.

In 1877, the provision of the General Statutes, authorizing jury trials in divorce suits, was repealed; and in 1881 it was enacted that in all cases where a divorce had been granted for adultery or other criminal offence committed within the State, and within the time provided by law for making complaints and finding indictments, the court granting the divorce may cause the district attorney to be notified, who shall then cause complaint to be made before the proper magistrate, or a presentment to the grand jury.

In view of the facility with which a divorce may now be obtained — a facility which no one, who has studied the subject can fail to recognize as having been steadily increased through the whole history of the legislative enactments, it will be of interest to consider very briefly the changes in the laws relating to subsequent marriages. In 1841 a statute was passed pro-



hibiting the guilty party, in all cases of divorce, from marrying while the innocent party was alive.

In 1853 it was enacted that, in cases of divorce for desertion, the court might permit the deserting party to marry again, and in 1855 the statute of 1841 was repealed, and a new one enacted, authorizing the court to allow the guilty party to marry again in all cases, except when the divorce had been granted for adultery. In 1864 it was provided by law that even in cases of divorce decreed for adultery, the guilty party might be allowed to remarry after three years, unless actually tried and convicted of the above crime.

The Acts of 1873 authorized the court to allow any person, against whom a divorce had been granted, to marry; but by a statute passed in 1881 two years must have elapsed from the time of the entry of the final decree of divorce, before the guilty party can again contract marriage. At the expiration of this period, however, it is not necessary to petition the court.

The foregoing summary of the different legislative enactments shows that there are now nine separate causes for which the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth may grant divorce from the bonds of matrimony. These causes are as follows:—

*Adultery.* Acts of 1786.

*Impotency.* Acts of 1786.

*Sentence to imprisonment at hard labor for five years or more.* Acts of 1836; the minimum term being first seven years, but reduced to five years in 1860.

*Desertion for three consecutive years next prior to the filing of the libel.* Acts of 1810; limited divorce being permitted to the wife, when utterly deserted by her husband. The Acts of 1836 permitted it to either party for utter desertion. That of 1838 authorized full divorce to the innocent party for desertion, which had continued for five consecutive years. That of 1857 decreed that either party might be granted a divorce, provided that, when sued for by the deserting party, it must be shown that the desertion was caused by extreme cruelty; or, in the case of the wife, by neglect on the part of the husband to make proper provision for her maintenance. The Acts of 1873 reduced the period of desertion from five to three years.



*Separation without consent, refusal to cohabit, and union for three years with a religious sect or society holding the relation of husband and wife unlawful.* Acts of 1850. The language of the present statute is practically the same as that originally passed.

*Extreme cruelty.* Acts of 1786, — being the one cause for which limited divorce might be granted. By the Statute of 1870, which prohibited divorce from bed and board, it became a cause for absolute divorce.

*Gross and confirmed habits of intoxication.* Acts of 1860, — being a cause for limited divorce only, and provided that the habit had been contracted after marriage. By the Statute of 1870 it became a cause for full divorce in the same form. The Statute of 1873 repealed the proviso.

*Cruel and abusive treatment.* Acts of 1860. By this enactment it was a cause for limited divorce only, but became one for full divorce in 1870.

*Neglect to provide.* Acts of 1810, — appearing as a cause for limited divorce. In 1870 it was made a cause for full divorce. This method is open to women only.

The following tables show the number of divorces granted during the past twenty years, by counties and statute causes, together with a State recapitulation, by years, counties and statute causes. It will be observed that no divorces have been granted for union with a religious sect, holding the relation of husband and wife unlawful. The sudden variations noticeable in certain years are mostly due to the changes in the laws, although the increase in the number of divorces granted for adultery, in 1866, is to be explained undoubtedly by its greater prevalence during the war period.

TABLE 1. — *Divorces Granted, by Years and Statute Causes. — Twenty Years.*  
THE STATE.

YEARS.	ADULTERY.			DESERTION.			INTOXICATION.			EXTREME CRUELTY.			CRUEL AND ABUSIVE TREATMENT.			NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.			IMPRISONMENT.			IMPOTENCY.			TOTALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1863.	47	50	97	34	61	95						9			6			1	1		1	1	1	1	82	125	207
1864.	54	74	128	36	93	129						9			4	4	4								90	180	270
1865.	80	92	181	44	89	133						9			10	10	10								133	200	333
1866.	112	122	234	58	84	142						10	10	10	10	10	10								171	221	392
1867.	72	107	179	26	64	90						7	7	7	7	7	7								99	183	282
1868.	82	121	193	26	102	128						12	12	12	12	12	12								98	241	339
1869.	86	106	188	44	84	128						11	11	11	11	11	11								127	212	339
1870.	86	133	219	51	88	139						11	11	11	11	11	11								138	241	379
1871.	73	64	100	59	82	141						13	13	13	13	13	13								119	224	343
1872.	72	108	180	64	128	192						23	23	23	23	23	23								142	307	449
1873.	82	91	173	97	187	284						3	3	3	3	3	3								157	460	617
1874.	68	64	132	131	123	254						46	46	46	46	46	46								209	368	577
1875.	46	71	117	78	139	217						4	4	4	4	4	4								128	397	525
1876.	64	79	143	100	150	250						3	3	3	3	3	3								137	416	553
1877.	77	71	148	87	177	264						7	7	7	7	7	7								182	418	600
1878.	62	69	131	86	178	264						5	5	5	5	5	5								157	389	546
1879.	78	75	153	104	197	301						10	10	10	10	10	10								177	403	580
1880.	47	57	104	73	124	197						9	9	9	9	9	9								129	280	409
1881.	50	67	117	75	183	258						28	28	28	28	28	28								130	385	515
1882.																											
Totals.	1,397	1,751	3,148	1,285	2,375	3,660	67	629	696			463	463		100	190	290	2	51	53		8	9	17	2,759	5,851	8,610



TABLE 2. — *Diarrhoea Crusted, by Years and Statute Clauses, — Twenty Years.*

## BARNSTABLE COUNTY.

YEARS.	AGE-CLASSES.			DIARRHOEA.			INTOXICATION.			EXTREME CRUELTY.			TOTALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both sexes.
1862.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1863.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1864.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1865.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1866.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1867.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1868.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1869.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1870.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1871.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1872.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1873.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1874.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1875.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1876.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1877.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1878.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1879.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1880.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1881.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
1882.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
Totals.	25	25	50	30	70	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	102	140

TABLE 3. — *Diseases Granted, by Years and Statute Causes, — Twenty Years.*

## BERKSHIRE COUNTY.

YEARS.	ADULTERY.			DESERTION.			INTOXICATION.			EXCESSIVE CREDIT.			CRUEL AND ABUSIVE TREATMENT.			NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.			IMPRISONMENT.			TOTALS.		
	Males.		Females.	Males.		Females.	Males.		Females.	Males.		Females.	Males.		Females.	Males.		Females.	Males.		Females.	Males.		Females.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1863,	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1864,	4	6	10	4	4	8	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
1865,	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
1866,	5	5	10	5	5	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
1867,	10	10	20	10	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
1868,	6	6	12	6	6	12	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
1869,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1870,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1871,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1872,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1873,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1874,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1875,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1876,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1877,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1878,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1879,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1880,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1881,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1882,	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Totals,	48	93	141	4	88	134	1	20	16	10	10	10	1	4	15	8	8	8	1	4	5	6	24	39



TABLE 4. — *Divorces Granted, by Years and Statute Causes, — Twenty Years.*  
BRISTOL COUNTY.

YEARS.	ADULTERY.			DESERTION.			INTOXICATIONS.			EXTREME CRUELTY.			CRUEL AND ABUSIVE TREATMENT.			NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.			IMPRISONMENT.			LIQUORICENY.			TOTALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1862.	4	10	14	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	9	11	20
1863.	10	13	23	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	14	26
1864.	13	17	30	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	14	16	30
1865.	11	11	22	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	18	17	35
1866.	11	11	22	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	14	14	28
1867.	4	14	18	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	8	14	22
1868.	10	10	20	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1869.	8	8	16	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1870.	10	10	20	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1871.	8	8	16	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1872.	5	5	10	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1873.	5	5	10	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1874.	4	4	8	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1875.	9	9	18	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1876.	5	5	10	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1877.	5	5	10	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1878.	7	7	14	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1879.	11	5	16	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1880.	7	7	14	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1881.	6	6	12	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
1882.	6	6	12	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	12	10	22
Totals,	138	138	276	108	187	295	3	35	38	53	39	1	93	33	33	15	15	15	2	2	1	1	1	2	250	450	700

TABLE 5. — *Divorces Granted, by Years and Statute Causes. — Twenty Years.*

## DUKES AND NANTUCKET COUNTIES.

YEARS.	ADULTERY.			DESERTION.			INTOXICATION.			EXTREME CRUELTY.			CRUEL AND ABUSIVE TREATMENT.			NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.			TOTALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1863.	1																		1		1
1864.																					
1865.	1	1	2																1	1	2
1866.	1	1	2																1	1	2
1867.																					
1868.																					
1869.																					
1870.																					
1871.	1		1																1		1
1872.																					
1873.	1		1																1		1
1874.	1		1																1		1
1875.	1		1																1		1
1876.	1		1																1		1
1877.	1		1																1		1
1878.	1		1																1		1
1879.	1		1																1		1
1880.	1		1																1		1
1881.	1		1																1		1
1882.																					
Totals,	8	4	12	8	17	25	7	4	11	10	20	30	1	3	4	1	3	24	16	32	48



TABLE 6. — *Divorces Granted, by Years and Statute Causes, — Twenty Years.*

## ESSEX COUNTY.

YEARS.	ADULTERY.			DESERTION.			INTOXICATION.			EXTREMELY CRUELTY.			CRUEL AND ABUSIVE TREATMENT.			NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.			IMPRISONMENT.			IMPOTENCY.			TOTALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1863.	9	12	21	1	11	12	1	9	10	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1864.	9	14	23	1	11	12	1	9	10	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1865.	11	13	24	4	9	13	4	9	13	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1866.	8	17	25	3	11	14	3	11	14	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1867.	9	19	28	6	6	12	6	6	12	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1868.	8	12	20	8	13	21	8	13	21	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1869.	20	12	32	8	15	23	8	15	23	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1870.	12	22	34	9	17	26	9	17	26	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1871.	14	12	26	2	17	19	2	17	19	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1872.	9	17	26	11	21	32	11	21	32	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1873.	9	18	27	19	26	45	19	26	45	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1874.	15	10	25	21	19	40	21	19	40	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1875.	7	9	16	14	22	36	14	22	36	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1876.	16	8	24	16	25	41	16	25	41	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1877.	8	10	18	11	18	29	11	18	29	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1878.	11	10	21	11	26	37	11	26	37	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1879.	16	10	26	19	18	37	19	18	37	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1880.	8	8	16	19	18	37	19	18	37	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1881.	4	11	15	9	46	55	9	46	55	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1882.	212	227	439	191	353	544	191	353	544	5	85	90	5	37	42	5	37	42	5	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals.	212	227	439	191	353	544	191	353	544	5	85	90	5	37	42	5	37	42	5	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1
	407	584	991	407	584	991	407	584	991	5	85	90	5	37	42	5	37	42	5	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1





TABLE 8. — *Deceases Granted, by Years and Statute Cause, — Twenty Years.*  
HAMPDEN COUNTY.

YEARS.	ABUSE.			DISSECTION.			INTOXICATION.			EXTREME CRUELTY.			CRUEL AND ABUSIVE TREATMENT.			NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.			IMPRISONMENT.			TOTALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1863, ..	5	4	9	3	9	12	3	5	8	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	8	14	22
1864, ..	3	11	14	6	8	14	1	5	6	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	6	10	16
1865, ..	5	16	21	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	5	8
1866, ..	8	16	24	1	4	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	14	22	36
1867, ..	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	8	14	22
1868, ..	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1869, ..	3	6	9	2	7	9	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1870, ..	1	3	4	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1871, ..	1	3	4	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1872, ..	1	3	4	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1873, ..	1	3	4	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1874, ..	7	6	13	1	4	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1875, ..	6	11	17	6	10	16	1	4	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1876, ..	3	8	11	4	7	11	1	4	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1877, ..	3	6	9	2	7	9	1	4	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1878, ..	3	6	9	6	14	20	1	4	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1879, ..	3	8	11	6	10	16	1	4	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1880, ..	5	4	9	6	9	15	1	3	4	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1881, ..	1	2	3	1	3	4	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
1882, ..	9	6	15	4	7	11	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	24	40
Totals, ..	88	113	201	67	145	212	1	59	60	1	39	39	1	22	22	1	29	29	1	24	24	135	160	295

TABLE 9. — *Divorces Granted, by Years and Statute Clauses. — Twenty Years.*

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY.

YEARS.	AGE AT DIV.			DESERTION.			INCOGNATION.			EXCEDE CRUELTY.			CARE AND AID FOR TREATMENT.			NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.			TOTALS.		
	Males.			Females.			Males.			Females.			Males.			Females.			Males.		
	Both Boxes.	Females.	Both Boxes.	Both Boxes.	Females.	Both Boxes.	Both Boxes.	Females.	Both Boxes.	Both Boxes.	Females.	Both Boxes.	Both Boxes.	Females.	Both Boxes.	Both Boxes.	Females.	Both Boxes.	Both Boxes.	Females.	Both Boxes.
1861.	1																				
1862.	1																				
1863.	1																				
1864.	1																				
1865.	1																				
1866.	1																				
1867.	1																				
1868.	1																				
1869.	1																				
1870.	1																				
1871.	1																				
1872.	1																				
1873.	1																				
1874.	1																				
1875.	1																				
1876.	1																				
1877.	1																				
1878.	1																				
1879.	1																				
1880.	1																				
1881.	1																				
1882.	1																				
Totals.	25	1	26	45	42	87	2	2	4	11	11	2	1	14	14	1	1	1	74	108	182

TABLE 10. — *Divorces Granted, by Years and Statute Causes, — Twenty Years.*  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

YEARS.	ADULTERY.			DESERTION.			INTOXICATION.			ENTRINE CRUELTY.			CRUEL AND ABUSIVE TREATMENT.			NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.			IMPRISONMENT.			IMPOTENCY.			TOTALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1863.	8	7	15	5	6	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	16	29
1864.	—	—	16	10	13	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	23	42
1865.	14	17	31	10	17	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	38	62
1866.	18	33	51	7	16	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	41	66
1867.	20	22	42	6	10	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	37	64
1868.	17	17	34	1	24	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	44	72
1869.	13	17	30	7	14	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	44	67
1870.	10	26	36	5	15	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	43	63
1871.	3	15	18	5	12	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	42	57
1872.	7	25	32	12	15	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	45	63
1873.	17	24	41	11	26	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	51	79
1874.	17	21	38	19	26	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	57	95
1875.	8	46	54	17	38	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	69	100
1876.	11	40	51	5	29	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	66	83
1877.	14	20	34	15	19	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	63	92
1878.	11	11	22	17	20	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	46	63
1879.	8	10	18	10	34	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	66	85
1880.	5	11	16	13	27	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	57	73
1881.	10	11	21	15	23	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	54	79
1882.	6	12	18	14	18	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	38	59
Totals.	226	315	541	203	370	573	8	104	112	—	62	62	—	75	75	—	29	29	—	10	10	—	—	—	443	903	1,411



TABLE 11. — *Discharges Granted, by Years and Statute Causes, — Twenty Years.*

## NORFOLK COUNTY.

YEARS.	ADULTERY.		DESERTION.		INCOGNITION.		EXTREME CRUELTY.		CHILD AND ABUSE TREATMENT.		NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.		IMPEDIMENT.		TOTALS.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
1863.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1864.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1865.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1866.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1867.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1868.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1869.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1870.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1871.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1872.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1873.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1874.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1875.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1876.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1877.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1878.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1879.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1880.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1881.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1882.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals,	39	62	71	67	65	145	72	12	15	4	4	1	1	1	128	205

TABLE 12. — *Discharges Granted, by Years and Statute Clauses. — Twenty Years.*

## PLYMOUTH COUNTY.

YEARS.	ADULTERY.			DESERTION.			INTOXICA- TION.			EXTREME CRUELTY.			CRUEL AND ABU- SIVE TREATMENT.			NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.			IMPRISON- MENT.			IMPOWERY.			TOTALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1863.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1864.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1865.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1866.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1867.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1868.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1869.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1870.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1871.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1872.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1873.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1874.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1875.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1876.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1877.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1878.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1879.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1880.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1881.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
1882.	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
Totals,	31	33	64	70	93	163	1	13	14	1	14	1	1	27	27	1	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	103	187	290

TABLE 13. — *Divorces Granted, by Years and Statute Causes. — Twenty Years.*

## SUFFOLK COUNTY.

YEARS.	ADULTERY.		DESERTION.		INTOXICATION.		EXTREME CRUELTY.		CRUEL AND ABUSIVE TREATMENT.		NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.		IMPRISONMENT.		IMPOTENCY.		TOTALS.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.	Both Sexes.
1863.	14	16	7	13	2	2	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	33	54
1864.	8	30	4	26	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	59	71
1865.	8	33	6	22	31	31	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	69	87
1866.	28	42	17	28	41	41	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	74	119
1867.	41	27	38	15	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	47	64
1868.	28	42	27	31	49	49	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100
1869.	21	45	69	28	49	49	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	75	100
1870.	23	44	69	28	28	28	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	78	111
1871.	49	26	43	15	28	28	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	98	111
1872.	23	22	33	16	36	36	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	46	78
1873.	16	26	22	13	33	33	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	62	86
1874.	16	28	18	13	33	33	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	68	98
1875.	18	13	27	27	19	32	10	10	19	19	1	1	1	1	1	1	131	186
1876.	11	24	22	20	32	32	10	10	16	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	98	130
1877.	25	41	31	38	46	46	9	9	21	21	1	1	1	1	1	1	126	149
1878.	22	44	29	42	71	71	12	12	16	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	115	158
1879.	20	38	31	36	47	47	6	6	13	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	94	128
1880.	17	26	43	46	6	6	6	6	13	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	115	138
1881.	8	8	16	16	11	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	63	87
1882.	13	13	13	40	53	53	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	81	102
Totals,	339	536	261	603	861	861	116	116	105	105	45	55	15	15	644	644	1,397	2,241





TABLE 15. — *Total Number of Diseases Granted, by Counties and Statute Causes, — Twenty Years.*

## STATE RECAPITULATION.

COUNTIES.	ADULTERY.			DISSENT.		INTOXICATION.		EXTREME CRUELTY.		CHILD AND ADOLESCENT TREATMENT.		NIGHT-POISONING.		TUBERCULOSIS.		IMPOTENCY.		TOTALS.	
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.
Barnstable, . . . . .	28	26	54	30	70	100	1	6	6	1	13	13	1	1	1	1	1	58	192
Berkshire, . . . . .	48	93	141	46	88	134	—	19	19	—	33	33	—	—	—	—	—	96	240
Bristol, . . . . .	138	138	276	108	187	295	—	39	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	250	450
Dukes and Duchess, . . . . .	8	4	12	8	17	25	—	3	3	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	12	32
Essex, . . . . .	212	227	439	191	333	524	—	65	85	—	37	37	—	—	—	—	—	417	854
Franklin, . . . . .	30	43	72	28	59	87	—	4	4	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	37	96
Hampden, . . . . .	88	113	201	67	145	212	—	49	49	—	22	22	—	—	—	—	—	124	408
Hampshire, . . . . .	25	41	66	46	83	89	—	11	11	—	14	14	—	—	—	—	—	74	108
Massachusetts, . . . . .	226	815	541	393	570	578	—	112	112	—	77	75	—	—	—	—	—	443	968
Norfolk, . . . . .	30	42	71	37	66	103	—	10	10	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	88	128
Plymouth, . . . . .	31	43	64	70	43	56	—	14	14	—	27	27	—	—	—	—	—	158	200
Suffolk, . . . . .	339	546	885	261	383	644	—	116	116	—	103	105	—	—	—	—	—	644	1,598
Worcester, . . . . .	136	140	276	185	291	476	—	15	15	—	47	47	—	—	—	—	—	376	698
The State, . . . . .	1,397	1,774	3,171	1,286	2,375	3,661	67	438	438	—	578	582	—	—	—	—	—	2,749	5,851

## DIVORCES BY YEARS AND CAUSES.

By a study of the foregoing tables, one cannot but be impressed by the great increase in the number of divorces during the past twenty years — a fact which can be partially explained by an increase in the number of marriages, although their ratio of increase is not proportionate to that of divorces; and partially by the greater facility with which divorces can now be obtained in comparison with the status in 1863. In the latter year there were 10,873 marriages, and in 1882, 17,684 — an increase equal to 62.6 per cent.; while the number of divorces has risen in the same period from 207 to 515, or 147.6 per cent., with an estimated increase in the population of 53.4. Reckoned from 1870, in which year all the nine causes had become legalized, it appears that the number of marriages has increased 20.1 per cent., while the divorces have increased 35.9 per cent. During the last ten years the ratio of increase in the number of marriages has been 7.6 per cent., against 14.7 per cent. for divorces. On the contrary, if a comparison is made between the statistics of the last four years and the four years prior to 1879, it will be seen that there has been a decrease in the number of divorces, equal to 10 per cent. in favor of the former period.

The records show that in the twenty years covered by the tables, 2,759 divorces were granted on complaint of the husband, and 5,851 on complaint of the wife; in other words, 67.9 per cent. of all the divorces were for causes affecting the domestic peace and happiness of the wife. Of the number of divorces decreed for desertion, 64.8 per cent. were in favor of the wife, and of those decreed for adultery, 55.6 per cent., or but a little over one-half, were granted to the female.

Analyzing the statistics more particularly, it appears that, in the above period, 42.5 per cent. of the total number of divorces were for adultery, and 42.5 per cent. were on the ground of desertion, or 79.0 per cent. for the two causes combined. It is also to be observed that the various causes have increased in frequency in the following ratios: — adultery, 20.6 per cent.; desertion, 171.5 per cent.; extreme cruelty, 366.6 — or, reckoned from 1870, when limited divorces were prohibited, 155.5 per cent.; neglect to provide, 100 per cent.; intoxica-



tion, computed from 1873, when the proviso that the habit must have been contracted after marriage was cancelled, 121·6 per cent.; cruel and abusive treatment (thirteen years), 700 per cent. The foregoing large ratios of increase are in the main simply evidences of the readiness with which persons have availed themselves of the change in the law made in 1873, regarding the substitution of absolute divorce for *nisi* decrees, to which reference has already been made. Since this year, however, the ratios have decreased as follows:—adultery, 74·4 per cent.; desertion, 137·2 per cent.; extreme cruelty, 344·9 per cent.; cruel and abusive treatment, 500 per cent. This decrease is much more marked in comparison with the statistics of 1874, when the above change went into full effect—there being actually fewer divorces for all the prominent causes in 1882, with the exception of desertion (four more) and intoxication (equal numbers), than in that year.

#### DIVORCE BY COUNTIES.

Any computation, based upon the comparative statistics of the different counties of the State, must become what unreliable, unless the relative changes in their population are taken into consideration. Hence the following table is designed to show a comparison between the ratios of increase in the number of divorces and marriages, and that of the population, for a period of twenty years, by counties. The rates for the divorces and marriages have been calculated for the term between 1863 and 1882, while that of the population has been computed from the statistics of the census years 1860 and 1880, as being a fair indication of the changes in the relative rank of the counties. In studying this table the fact should not be forgotten that the large increase in the number of divorces is mainly due to the changes in the laws, although these changes have no effect upon the comparative ratios. It should also be remembered that the geographical limits of Suffolk, Middlesex and Norfolk counties have been somewhat altered by annexation of certain cities and towns to Suffolk, as has been mentioned on page 19 of this report.

TABLE 16. — *Rates of Increase of Divorces, Marriages, and Population, by Counties. — Twenty Years.*

COUNTIES.	Ratio of increase of Divorces.		Ratio of increase of Marriages.		Ratio of increase of Population.	
	1863	1882.	1863	1882.	1860	1880.
THE STATE, . . . . .	147·6		62·6		44·8	
Barnstable, . . . . .	133·3		40·3-		12·8-	
Berkshire, . . . . .	242·8		55·7		25·2	
Bristol, . . . . .	342·7		137·4		48·3	
Dukes and Nantucket, . . . .	25·0		30·7-		30·7-	
Essex, . . . . .	443·7		89·0		47·6	
Franklin, . . . . .	166·6		28·1		14·4	
Hampden, . . . . .	94·7		74·2		81·5	
Hampshire, . . . . .	166·6		28·3		25·1	
Middlesex, . . . . .	103·5		76·3		46·9	
Norfolk, . . . . .	30·0		6·9-		13·9	
Plymouth, . . . . .	130·0		40·9		14·2	
Suffolk, . . . . .	88·8		70·5		101·3	
Worcester, . . . . .	163·6		50·8		42·1	

It thus appears that in Suffolk County alone the ratio of increase in the population is greater than that of the divorces, although the latter have increased in a greater proportion than the marriages. The greatest percentage of divorce increase has been in Essex, and the lowest in Dukes and Nantucket. In comparison, however, with the change in the population, Norfolk stands the lowest, since with an increase of 25 per cent. in the number of divorces, Dukes and Nantucket have suffered a decrease in their population of 30·7 per cent. and the same ratio in the number of marriages. In Barnstable County, also, there has been an increase in the number of divorces, with a decrease in the number of marriages and in the population. In Norfolk there has been a decrease in the

number of marriages of 6·9 per cent. The highest rate of increase in the population appears in Suffolk, and the lowest in Norfolk.

In Table 17 may be studied the relative ratios of increase from 1873, by counties. The rates of increase in the population have been computed from the statistics of the census years 1870-1880.

TABLE 17. — *Rates of Increase of Divorces, Marriages, and Population. — Ten Years.*

COUNTIES.	Ratio of increase of Divorces, 1873 - 1882.	Ratio of increase of Marriages, 1873 - 1882.	Ratio of increase of Population, 1870 - 1880.
THE STATE, . . . . .	14·7	7·6	22·3
Barnstable, . . . . .	28·5-	27·4-	27-
Berkshire, . . . . .	20·0	6·0	6·4
Bristol, . . . . .	83·3	11·8	35·1
Dukes and Nantucket, . . . .	150·0	7·7-	1·4
Essex, . . . . .	13·0	14·1	17·0
Franklin, . . . . .	13·0	5·2	10·1
Hampden, . . . . .	94·7	21·7	32·8
Hampshire, . . . . .	60·0	13·4	6·4
Middlesex, . . . . .	67·7-	1·3	15·8
Norfolk, . . . . .	62·5	13·0-	7·8
Plymouth, . . . . .	109·0	4·0	13·2
Suffolk, . . . . .	4·0	8·3	43·2
Worcester, . . . . .	38·0	12·0	17·7

For a period of ten years, the largest percentage of increase in the number of divorces has been in Dukes and Nantucket counties, and the smallest in Suffolk. In Barnstable and Middlesex there has been a decrease of 28·5 and 67·7 per cent. respectively. In the former county there has likewise been a decrease in the number of marriages and in the popula-



tion, and in Dukes and Nantucket and Norfolk, in the number of marriages. Suffolk shows the greatest increase in the population, and Dukes and Nantucket the smallest.

Dividing the State, according to the situation of the counties, into what may be properly designated the Metropolitan, Rural and Cape districts (*vide*, page 53), it will be seen that the average of the ratios of increase in the number of divorces for ten years is 91 per cent. for the Rural, and 37·5 per cent. for the Cape districts; while the Metropolitan division shows an average decrease of 3·1 per cent. The average rates of increase, in the number of marriages, for the same period are 11·5 per cent. for the Rural counties, and 8·9 for the Metropolitan; the Cape division on the contrary has had a decrease of 6·4 per cent. The population of the three divisions, in the order given above, increased from 1870 to 1880 in the average proportions of 23·8 per cent., 13·8 per cent. and 11·5 per cent. respectively. These figures would indicate, therefore, that the number of divorces has increased most largely in those portions of the State which contain the smallest population.

In 1870 Suffolk County had 27 per cent. of the whole number of divorces granted, with 19 per cent. of the population of the State; Middlesex had 17 per cent. of the divorces, with 19 per cent. of the population; Essex had a little less than 16 per cent. of the divorces, with about 14 per cent. of the population; Worcester had a little less than 12 per cent. of the divorces, with rather more than 13 per cent. of the population; Bristol had very nearly 8 per cent. of the divorces, with 7 per cent. of the population; Norfolk had less than 3 per cent. of the divorces, with 6 per cent. of the population. The statistics of 1875 give Suffolk 27 per cent. of the divorces, with 22 per cent. of the population; Middlesex 17 per cent. of the divorces, with 16 per cent. of the population; Essex 14 per cent. of the divorces, with 13 per cent. of the population; Worcester about 12 per cent. of both the divorces and the population; Bristol 8 per cent. of the divorces, with about the same per cent. of the population; Norfolk rather more than 3 per cent. of the divorces, with 5·3 per cent. of the population. In 1880 Suffolk had 27 per cent. of the divorces, with rather more than 21 per cent. of the population; Middlesex 13 per cent. of the divorces, with a little less than 17 per cent. of

the population; Essex a little less than 17 per cent. of the divorces, with rather more than 13 per cent. of the population; Worcester a little more than 14 per cent. of the divorces, with 12·7 per cent. of the population; Bristol 4·7 per cent. of the divorces, with nearly 7 per cent. of the population.

In the period of twenty years (1863–1882) Suffolk had 26·2 per cent. of the whole number of divorces; Middlesex 16·3 per cent.; Essex 14·7 per cent.; Worcester 12·3 per cent.; Bristol 8·2 per cent.; Hampden 6·5 per cent.; Berkshire 3·8 per cent.; Plymouth 3·3 per cent.; Norfolk 2·4 per cent.; Hampshire 2·2 per cent.; Barnstable 1·9 per cent.; Franklin 1·8 per cent.; Dukes and Nantucket ·6 of one per cent.

In analyzing the various causes for which divorces have been granted in the different counties for a period of twenty years, it appears that Suffolk has had 27·7 per cent. of the whole number decreed for adultery, and 23·6 per cent. of that for desertion. The relative proportions in Middlesex are 17·1 per cent. for adultery and 15·8 per cent. for desertion; in Essex 13·9 per cent. for adultery, and 14·8 per cent. for desertion; in Worcester 10·9 per cent. for adultery, and 14·1 per cent. for desertion; in Bristol 8·7 per cent. for adultery, and 8 per cent. for desertion; in Norfolk 2·2 per cent. for adultery and 2·8 per cent. for desertion.

In proportion to the whole number of divorces granted in each county, for a period of twenty years, there have been 46·7 per cent. decreed for adultery, and 43·5 per cent. for desertion in Franklin; 39·4 per cent. for adultery and 42·1 per cent. in Bristol; 39 per cent. for adultery and 38·5 per cent. for desertion in Suffolk; 38·9 per cent. for adultery, and 39·8 per cent. for desertion in Berkshire; 38·3 per cent. for adultery, and 40·9 per cent. for desertion in Middlesex; 36·2 per cent. for adultery and 38·2 per cent. for desertion in Hampden; 34·8 per cent. for adultery and 43·1 per cent. for desertion in Essex; 34·1 per cent. for adultery and 49·5 per cent. for desertion in Norfolk; 33·7 per cent. for adultery and 62·4 per cent. for desertion in Barnstable; 32·5 per cent. for adultery, and 45·6 per cent. for desertion in Worcester; 30·7 per cent. for adultery and 48·9 per cent. for desertion in Hampshire; 25 per cent. for adultery, and 50 per cent. for desertion in Dukes and

Nantucket; 22 per cent. for adultery and 56·2 per cent. for desertion in Plymouth. If the same division of the State into Metropolitan, Rural and Cape districts is made, as was shown in a previous paragraph, it appears that the average of the above ratios for adultery is 30·9 per cent. for the Cape counties and 38·1 per cent. for the Rural counties, as against 36·1 per cent. for the Metropolitan division. For desertion the aggregates are 52 per cent. for the Cape, 42·6 per cent. for the Rural and 42·1 per cent. for the Metropolitan districts.

A review of these computations, as to the relative rank of the counties in the prevalence of adultery and desertion as causes for divorce, would seem to indicate that these causes operate to a much greater extent in the more thickly populated sections of the State. When, however, it is considered that the marriage rates for such districts are proportionately higher than in the counties with a smaller population, the difference becomes less marked. As has been shown, in relation to the total number of divorces granted in each county, that decreed for adultery and desertion seems to be greater in the Cape and Rural divisions than in the Metropolitan.

Of the eight causes for divorce mentioned in the tables, Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk and Worcester furnish statistics under each of the specified heads; Berkshire, Hampden, Norfolk and Plymouth under seven of them; Dukes and Nantucket, Franklin and Hampshire under six; and Barnstable under but three.

In 1874 Barnstable, Middlesex and Suffolk had the greatest number of divorces, which were granted in those counties for the twenty year period; Dukes and Nantucket, and Norfolk in 1875—the number, however, being equalled in 1882 in the former; Hampden, Hampshire and Plymouth in 1878; Worcester in 1879; Berkshire and Essex in 1880; Bristol and Franklin in 1881.

In relation to the special causes for divorce, the greatest number of those granted for adultery in Berkshire occurred in 1865, the same number being decreed in 1870 and 1880; in Bristol, Dukes and Nantucket, Hampden, Norfolk and Suffolk in 1866; in Middlesex in 1867; in Plymouth in 1869; in Essex in 1870 and 1871; in Worcester in 1873; in Barnstable in 1876; in Hampshire in 1878; in Franklin in 1881. For

desertion the year 1874 leads in Barnstable, Hampden, and Middlesex; 1875 in Dukes and Nantucket and Norfolk; 1878 in Hampshire, Plymouth and Suffolk; 1879 in Worcester; 1880 and 1881 in Essex; 1880 in Berkshire; 1881 in Bristol; 1882 in Essex. For intoxication, the greatest number was recorded in 1871 and 1875 in Middlesex; in 1875 and 1876 in Norfolk; in 1875, 1876 and 1878 in Hampden; in 1876 in Essex, Suffolk and Worcester; in 1877 in Berkshire; in 1878 in Plymouth; in 1882 in Bristol. For extreme cruelty, the year 1874 is the most prominent in Suffolk; 1875 in Worcester and Berkshire; 1876 in Middlesex and Plymouth; 1877 in Bristol and Essex; 1880 in Hampden. In other words the year 1866 leads as to the number of divorces granted for adultery in the largest proportion of the counties; 1874 and 1878 for desertion; 1876 for intoxication; and 1875, 1876 and 1877 for extreme cruelty.

#### RATIO OF DIVORCES TO MARRIAGES.

In order that a more correct estimate may be formed of the frequency with which divorces have been granted during the past twenty years, the following tables have been prepared, showing the relative ratio of divorces to marriages, by years, counties and statute causes :



TABLE 18. — *Ratio of Divorces to Marriages. — Twenty Years.*

YEARS.	Number of Mar- riages.	Marriage- Rates per 1,000.	Number of Divorces.	Ratio of Divorces to Marriages.
1863, . . . .	10,873	17.36	207	1 to 52.5
1864, . . . .	12,513	19.87	270	1 to 46.3
1865, . . . .	13,051	20.60	333	1 to 39.2
1866, . . . .	14,428	22.15	392	1 to 36.8
1867, . . . .	14,451	21.57	282	1 to 51.2
1868, . . . .	13,856	20.11	339	1 to 40.8
1869, . . . .	14,826	20.92	339	1 to 43.7
1870, . . . .	14,721	20.20	379	1 to 38.8
1871, . . . .	15,746	21.07	325	1 to 48.4
1872, . . . .	16,142	26.07	343	1 to 47.1
1873, . . . .	16,437	20.92	449	1 to 36.6
1874, . . . .	15,564	19.32	647	1 to 24.1
1875, . . . .	13,663	16.54	577	1 to 23.6
1876, . . . .	12,749	15.43	525	1 to 24.2
1877, . . . .	12,758	15.40	553	1 to 23.1
1878, . . . .	12,893	15.47	600	1 to 21.4
1879, . . . .	13,802	16.08	546	1 to 23.4
1880, . . . .	15,538	17.42	580	1 to 26.8
1881, . . . .	16,768	*17.96	409	1 to 40.9
1882, . . . .	17,684	*18.40	515	1 to 34.3
Totals, . . . .	288,463	—	8,610	1 to 33.5

\* Estimated.

TABLE 19. — *Ratio of Total Number of Divorces to Total Number of Marriages, by Counties. — Twenty Years.*

COUNTIES.	Number of Marriages.	Number of Divorces.	Ratio of Divorces to Marriages.
The State, . . . .	288,463	8,610	1 to 33.5
Barnstable, . . . .	5,852	160	1 to 36.5
Berkshire, . . . .	10,103	336	1 to 30.0
Bristol, . . . .	21,802	700	1 to 31.1
Dukes and Nantucket, . . . .	1,364	48	1 to 28.4
Essex, . . . .	40,435	1,261	1 to 32.0
Franklin, . . . .	5,586	154	1 to 36.2
Hampden, . . . .	17,068	555	1 to 30.7
Hampshire, . . . .	7,558	182	1 to 41.5
Middlesex, . . . .	46,623	1,411	1 to 33.0
Norfolk, . . . .	13,024	208	1 to 62.6
Plymouth, . . . .	11,323	290	1 to 39.0
Suffolk, . . . .	73,094	2,241	1 to 32.6
Worcester, . . . .	34,631	1,064	1 to 31.9

TABLE 29. — *Ratio of Divorces to Total Number of Marriages, by Counties and Causes. — Twenty Years.*

COUNTIES.	Number of Marriages.	ADULTERY.		DISSENT.		INTOXICATION.		EXTREME CRUELTY.		ALL OTHER CAUSES.	
		Number of Divorces.	Ratio of Divorces to Marriages.	Number of Divorces.	Ratio of Divorces to Marriages.	Number of Divorces.	Ratio of Divorces to Marriages.	Number of Divorces.	Ratio of Divorces to Marriages.	Number of Divorces.	Ratio of Divorces to Marriages.
THE STATE.	288,463	3,148	1 to 91.6	3,660	1 to 78.8	696	1 to 414.4	463	1 to 623.0	643	1 to 448.6
Barnstable.	5,852	54	1 to 108.3	100	1 to 58.5	—	—	6	1 to 975.0	—	—
Berkshire.	10,103	141	1 to 71.6	131	1 to 75.4	16	1 to 631.4	19	1 to 522.8	26	1 to 388.6
Bristol.	21,802	276	1 to 78.9	225	1 to 78.8	38	1 to 573.7	39	1 to 559.6	52	1 to 419.2
Dukes and Nantucket.	1,364	12	1 to 113.6	25	1 to 54.6	4	1 to 341.0	3	1 to 454.5	4	1 to 341.0
Essex.	40,435	429	1 to 92.1	544	1 to 74.3	121	1 to 326.0	85	1 to 475.7	69	1 to 586.0
Franklin.	5,286	72	1 to 77.5	67	1 to 83.5	3	1 to 182.0	4	1 to 456.5	8	1 to 695.7
Hampden.	17,008	291	1 to 84.9	212	1 to 80.5	59	1 to 259.2	39	1 to 437.6	44	1 to 387.7
Hampshire.	7,558	56	1 to 134.9	89	1 to 84.9	9	1 to 837.7	11	1 to 687.9	17	1 to 444.6
Middlesex.	46,623	541	1 to 86.1	578	1 to 80.6	112	1 to 416.2	62	1 to 751.9	118	1 to 395.1
Norfolk.	13,924	71	1 to 183.4	103	1 to 123.4	15	1 to 898.2	10	1 to 1302.4	9	1 to 1417.1
Plymouth.	11,323	64	1 to 176.9	103	1 to 69.4	14	1 to 808.7	14	1 to 88.7	35	1 to 323.5
Suffolk.	73,691	875	1 to 83.5	864	1 to 84.5	227	1 to 322.0	146	1 to 632.1	159	1 to 459.7
Worcester.	31,631	346	1 to 100.0	486	1 to 71.2	75	1 to 401.7	75	1 to 629.6	100	1 to 316.3

While the population of the State is estimated to have increased 669,219, or 53·4 per cent. during the past twenty years, and the marriage rate but 1·04 per thousand, it is a startling fact that the ratio of persons divorced to the population has advanced, in the same period, from 1 in 3,025 to 1 in 1,862; and that of divorces to marriages from 1 in 52·5 to 1 in 34·3, or a little more than one-half.

Taking the whole twenty years into consideration, the average ratio for the State is found to be one divorcee to every thirty-three and one-half marriages. For the last four years this ratio is one divorcee to every thirty-one marriages, as compared with one to twenty-three in the previous four years. Whether this decrease is illusory must be proved by the statistics of future periods. The years 1873, 1881 and 1882 show the greatest number of marriages for the term under review, while the average ratio for these years is 1 divorcee to 37·2 marriages, or a gain of 1 in 3·7 in comparison with the State as a whole. When compared with the average of the seven years between 1873 and 1882, the difference is found to be 1 in 13·4 in favor of the three-year periods. The smallest ratio of divorcees in comparison with the marriages, since 1872, occurred in the year 1880.

Upon an examination of the statistics given in Table 19, it will be noticed that, while the average ratio of divorcees to marriages, for twenty years, is 1 in 33·5 for the State, that for Norfolk is but 1 in 62·6. This county is thus placed at the head of the list in its recognition of the permanency of the marriage vows. On the contrary, the ratio for Dukes and Nantucket, taken together, which is the lowest of all the counties, would seem to indicate that the contract of marriage is held in comparatively light esteem by them. The other counties take rank in the following order:—Hampshire, 1 to 41·5; Plymouth, 1 to 39; Barnstable, 1 to 36·5; Franklin, 1 to 36·4; Middlesex, 1 to 33; Suffolk, 1 to 32·6; Essex, 1 to 32; Worcester, 1 to 31·9; Bristol, 1 to 31·1; Hampden, 1 to 30·7; Berkshire, 1 to 30. In other words, the proportion of divorcees to marriages is nearly twice as great among the city population of Suffolk as among the town population of Norfolk; although the Rural and Cape counties of Berkshire, Hampden, Bristol and Dukes and Nantucket make a less favorable showing in this

respect than the Metropolitan county of Suffolk. The three divisions, compared, give average ratios of 1 to 39·3 for the Cape, 1 to 34·6 for the Rural, and 1 to 32·3 for the Metropolitan counties — thus showing but a slight difference in favor of the smaller towns of the Rural district over the more thickly populated cities and towns of the Metropolitan; but a much greater difference in favor of the Cape division.

If a still further study is made of the statistics by an analysis of Table 20, it will be seen that, for the cause of adultery, there were fewer divorces decreed in proportion to the number of marriages during the twenty-year period in Norfolk than in any other county of the Commonwealth, and the greatest number in Berkshire. The other counties take rank as follows: — Plymouth, with 1 divorce to 176·9 marriages; Hampshire, 1 to 134·9; Dukes and Nantucket, 1 to 113·6; Barnstable, 1 to 108·3; Worcester, 1 to 100; Essex, 1 to 92·1; Middlesex, 1 to 86·1; Hampden, 1 to 84·9; Suffolk, 1 to 83·5; Bristol, 1 to 78·9; Franklin, 1 to 77·5. For desertion, Norfolk makes the most favorable showing, as it does also under the head of intoxication. In relation to the former cause, Dukes and Nantucket have the highest ratio of divorces to marriages (one to 54·6), or more than twice as great as that for Norfolk; while Suffolk holds the third place, with Middlesex fifth in order, and Essex eighth. The Cape counties, as a rule, make the least favorable showing — a fact which may possibly be due to the more maritime character of their population. Hampden has the worst record for intoxication and extreme cruelty, while Franklin makes by far the best showing for both these causes. The ratio of Dukes and Nantucket, Essex, and Suffolk are above that of the State for intoxication. Norfolk presents the smallest proportion of divorces decreed for all the other causes combined, and Plymouth the largest.

Tables 21 and 22 show in detail the statistics for 1882.



TABLE 21. — *Divorces Granted, by Counties and Statute Causes — 1882.*

COUNTIES.	ADULTERY.		DESERTION.		IN-OXIA-TION.		EXTRANE-CRUELTY.		CRUEL AND ABU-SIVE TREATMENT.		NEGLECT TO PROVIDE.		IMPOTENCY.		TOTALS.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Barnstable, . . .	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Berkshire, . . .	2	4	2	11	13	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	20
Bristol, . . .	6	9	15	13	23	8	4	4	3	1	1	1	—	—	16	39
Dukes and Nantucket,	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Essex, . . .	4	11	15	9	49	11	2	2	6	2	1	1	—	—	14	73
Franklin, . . .	—	—	—	3	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Hampden, . . .	9	6	19	4	11	7	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	13	21
Hampshire, . . .	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	4
Middlesex, . . .	6	12	18	13	32	1	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	38
Norfolk, . . .	3	—	3	2	7	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	5	5
Plymouth, . . .	—	1	1	3	12	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	1	—	3	20
Suffolk, . . .	7	13	29	14	51	17	5	5	6	6	—	—	—	—	21	81
Worcester, . . .	12	9	21	12	41	13	3	3	—	—	4	4	—	—	24	63
The State, . . .	59	67	117	76	183	59	28	28	26	8	8	3	3	—	130	385

TABLE 22. — *Ratio of Divorces to Marriages, by Counties. — 1882.*

COUNTIES.	Number of Marriages.	Number of Divorces.	Ratio of Divorces to Marriages.
Barnstable, . . . . .	233	7	1 to 33·3
Berkshire, . . . . .	545	24	1 to 22·7
Bristol, . . . . .	1,610	55	1 to 29·1
Dukes and Nantucket, . . . . .	65	5	1 to 13·0
Essex, . . . . .	2,511	87	1 to 28·8
Franklin, . . . . .	319	8	1 to 39·8
Hampden, . . . . .	1,122	37	1 to 30·3
Hampshire, . . . . .	389	8	1 to 48·6
Middlesex, . . . . .	3,147	59	1 to 53·3
Norfolk, . . . . .	708	13	1 to 54·1
Plymouth, . . . . .	668	23	1 to 29·0
Suffolk, . . . . .	4,283	102	1 to 41·9
Worcester, . . . . .	2,084	87	1 to 23·9
The State, . . . . .	17,684	515	1 to 34·3

But little information can be derived from a comparison between the number of divorces granted in 1882 and the population, since the latter can only be approximated. Basing the presumable relative rank of the counties as to population, however, upon that which they held by the census of 1880, it appears that Suffolk has the first rank both in the number of its inhabitants and the divorces; Middlesex stands second in population and fourth in divorces; Essex third in population and second in divorces; Worcester fourth in population and second also in divorces; Bristol fifth, both in population and in divorces; Hampden sixth in population and likewise in divorces; Norfolk seventh in population and ninth in divorces; Plymouth eighth in both; Berkshire ninth in population and seventh in divorces; Hampshire tenth in both; Franklin eleventh in population and tenth in divorces; Barnstable and Dukes and Nantucket twelfth and thirteenth respectively both in population and divorces. It would thus seem that the relative number of divorces in the various counties bears a tolerably accurate proportion to the population.

The percentage of divorces granted for adultery in 1882 to the whole number is 22·7 per cent., and for desertion 50·2 per cent., an aggregate of 72·9 for the two causes. Seventy-four

and seven-tenths per cent. of the total number of divorces were granted to females; 57·2 for adultery alone, and 72·5 for desertion. While the number of divorces in 1882 was but four more than the average for the previous three years, adultery, as a cause, increased thirty per cent. over this average, as compared with a decrease in the number of marriages of twenty-eight and one-tenth per cent., and an increase in their estimated rates of one and seven-tenths per cent. For desertion the increase was six and six-tenths per cent., and for intoxication twenty-eight per cent., whereas extreme cruelty remained stationary, and cruel and abusive treatment decreased eighty-seven and five-tenths per cent.

In respect to the ratio of divorces to marriages (Table 22), that for the State, as a whole, is 1 in 34·3; while Barnstable County has a record of 1 in 13, or more than four times greater than the proportion for Norfolk, which is 1 in 54·4. Suffolk stands relatively very high in the list, with one divorce only to every forty-one and nine-tenths marriages. The remaining counties take rank as follows: Middlesex, 1 to 53·3; Hampshire, 1 to 48·6; Franklin, 1 to 39·8; Berkshire, 1 to 33·3; Hampden, 1 to 30·3; Bristol, 1 to 29·1; Plymouth, 1 to 29; Essex, 1 to 28·8; Worcester, 1 to 23·9; Berkshire, 1 to 22·7.

#### LENGTH OF MARRIED LIFE OF LIBELLANTS.

As an aid to the practical study of the causes leading to divorce, it will be of interest to briefly review the statistics, in regard to the number of years which the libellants have been married before seeking a judicial separation from the bonds of matrimony. It will be necessary, however, to confine this review to the record of the last four years, since previous to 1879 such returns were not made. Taking the whole period between 1879 and 1882 into consideration, it appears that an average of 35·2 per cent. of the petitioners had been married only between five and ten years, and 35 per cent. between ten and twenty years.

An aggregate of 417 libellants had been married from one to five years; 289 from twenty to thirty; 83 over thirty; 21 under one year; 16 under six months. Of the divorces prayed for on the ground of adultery, the largest proportion was after

a married life of between five and ten years, while for desertion the ratio was the highest between ten and twenty years.

As the statistics of each of these four years furnish very nearly similar results, it will be necessary to refer only to those of 1882, as an example of the others. In this year the average length of married life of the libellants was, for all causes, 10·95 years. For the cause of adultery, it was 9·86 years; for neglect to provide, 10·02; for intoxication, 10·70; for cruel and abusive treatment, 10·85; for desertion, 11·41; for extreme cruelty, 12·02; for imprisonment, 17·05. Thirty-six and one-tenth per cent. of the petitioners had been married from five to ten years; 35·9 per cent. from ten to twenty; 93 libellants between one and five; 72 between twenty and thirty; 15 over thirty; 6 under one year; 3 under six months. Of the total number of suits in which adultery was alleged as a cause, 36·8 per cent. were brought after a married life of from ten to twenty years; 34·2 per cent. from five to ten; in 29, marriage had continued between one and five years; in 8 between twenty and thirty; in 3 over thirty; in 2 under one year; in 2 under six months.

In the cases in which desertion was the alleged cause, 37·4 per cent. of the parties to the suit had been married from ten to twenty years; 36·5 per cent. from five to ten; 38 of them from twenty to thirty; 37 from one to five; 8 over thirty.

Of the suits brought within the first five years of married life for alleged adultery, 57·4 per cent. were upon the petition of the husband, and 42·4 per cent. upon that of the wife. On the contrary, of those prayed for after five years, 42 per cent. were sought by the former, and 58 per cent. by the latter. For alleged desertion, 32·3 per cent. of the libellants were males, and 67·7 per cent. females.

### REMARKS ON DIVORCE.

After a careful consideration of the foregoing statistics, several evident facts stand out in startling prominence. That the number of divorces in Massachusetts is excessive, and that this number has increased very largely within the past twenty years, must be apparent to all who have studied the subject. It can, or rather should be no consolation to us, that this Common-



wealth is better off in this respect than its sister States of Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut,\* even though a comparison between them was not misleading, on account of the difference in their laws authorizing divorce. The principle of *tu quoque* is a dangerous one upon which to rest in the presence of a growing social evil; and hence, instead of pointing to the records of other States as a flattering unction for our own shortcomings, it is incumbent upon us to seek the causes which operate in this State to produce such grave results, in order that remedies may be applied, if such become possible.

That divorce laws are wise, both in their conception and enactment, there can be but little doubt, although by certain earnest observers this statement has been denied. To oblige a woman, however,—and it has been shown that nearly seventy per cent. of the divorcees in Massachusetts are granted to the wife—to submit to the brutalities of a cruel or drunken husband, or to his profligacy, without hope of relief; or to compel a husband to continue a contract in the face of the many marital wrongs, which the records show are committed by the wife, would certainly be a legal cruelty, particularly when by a judicial separation an opportunity may be offered for future happiness. While, however, laws having for their object a correction of unfortunate evils are necessary, care should always be taken that every legislative safeguard is placed around a marriage contract, in order to prevent a hasty or unjust abrogation of it. Whether the laws of this State have made a divorce too easy of attainment; whether, for instance, the enactment relating to the subsequent marriage of the guilty party is any improvement over that originally passed, which forbade such a marriage during the lifetime of the innocent party, is not a question to be discussed in a report of this nature. Of all the changes in the Divorce Acts, one at least deserves more than a passing notice: viz., that relating to desertion as a cause, which, in opening it to the deserting party, provides that it shall be only so granted, when it has been proved that the desertion

\* The proportion for Massachusetts for twenty years is one divorce to thirty-three and one-half marriages, while in Vermont for the ten years preceding 1879 it was one to seventeen, in Rhode Island below one to fourteen, and in Connecticut below one to eleven. For 1880 the ratio in Vermont was one in twenty; in Rhode Island and Connecticut, for 1881, one to about ten and one-half, and one to sixteen and two-thirds respectively.

is on account of extreme cruelty on the part of the one deserted. This proviso prevents groundless desertion, which in some other States too often takes place with the sole object of marrying another. On the whole the divorce laws of this Commonwealth have kept pace with the improved understanding of the social condition of the people, and have been wisely framed to meet the many causes which exist in modern life to break up the domestic ties and relations.

As easy as it is to point to the great prevalence of the causes for which divorces are granted, it is much more difficult to explain the underlying evils which lead to them. Whatever these conditions may be, and however they may have been brought about, we must, strangely enough, look mainly to our native population for the explanation. For while it is certain that the older a community grows the more crime of all sorts becomes common, and one of their results, as seen in the records of the divorce courts, more frequently noticed, yet that our greatly increased foreign population cannot be held responsible is proved by the fact that the greater proportion of them belong to a Church, which forbids divorce from the bonds of matrimony. Various theories have been advanced by writers upon this subject to explain the great prevalence of divorce; but it seems most probable that the chief cause must be sought in the effect which modern civilization has in producing an individualism. A late observer has very truly said that family ties must have their foundation in social and domestic affections, guided by intellect and cultivated by moral sentiments. Whether modern life leads to this is a question which it concerns us to ponder well. The keynote to the answer seems to have been sounded in the lesson to be learned from the statistics of deaths from brain diseases, which have been given in another portion of this report. The great increase of one hundred and forty-four and nine-tenths per cent. in the mortality from these disorders during the past twenty-three years can have but one solution,—that there is a rapidly growing tendency to make the business of life one of paramount and absorbing importance, and to sacrifice domestic relations and home affections to the American Moloch of unrest and unceasing mental activity. This truth does not apply to the husband alone; the wife must assume some of the responsibility.

In fact, some writers have gone so far as to lay at her door many of the mistakes which tend to strain the ties, which should centralize the family within the home. This seems unjust, however, in view of the records. But that the wife, with the modern desire to have a mission, the fulfilment of which so often makes the domestic duties and the claims of matrimony irksome to her, does sometimes become too individualized for the preservation of the social affections, no one who has watched carefully the onward march of our nineteenth century ideas can fail to recognize. It is by no means intended to deprecate woman's advancement in any direction, but to call attention to the fact that there is a tendency in this advancement to subordinate the central affections, which in so many different ways make of the house a home, to a purely intellectual development. The intellect, both on the part of the husband and the wife, must guide, but not control these affections, if many of the causes which lead to divorce are to be averted.

Again, it is a serious question whether the present system of education does not tend to foster a growth which will eventually lead to individualism; or rather, perhaps, whether it does not neglect to cultivate ideas which will result in a centralism of home ties. Without entering into a discussion of this subject, as not coming within the scope of this review, it may be proper to suggest, that there seems to be a tendency on the part of ~~the~~ modern educators to develop the head at the expense of the heart, and to confine the course of study within such a limit, that a broad expansion of mind becomes almost an impossibility.

The opposite extremes of luxury and poverty — and by the latter is meant not squalor, but the lack of means — conditions of society which become more marked as communities grow older, must be considered important factors in the production of this great social evil. Both tend to the same individualism — the former by its too often mistaking the external semblance of domestic life for its true realization, the shadow for the reality; and the latter, by the sacrifice which is so frequently made in the struggle for existence. Self-absorption, whether in the pursuit of wealth, of pleasure, or of the bare means of living; the anxieties and cares which modern civilization largely aug-



ments, have a tendency to prevent inter-communication, and to alienate the affections. Let these domestic errors, without mutual confidence and mutual concessions, gain a foothold, and married happiness becomes a wreck, from which it is but a step to desertion and the divorce courts.

A still further failure in the social condition of this country, and the remark applies equally as well to Massachusetts, is to be found in the lack of simple, healthy amusements for the masses, which amusements have a tendency to afford a much-needed relief from care, and serve to elevate the social condition by counteracting the narrowing influences of constant work. This fact is nowhere more apparent than in the country districts, in which a life, monotonous from the lack of social recreation and enjoyment, often seeks relief in the many causes which lead to divorce.

That the domestic ills which result in legal separation are progressive, is abundantly proved by the tables showing the length of married life of the libellants. It has been seen that the largest number of suits are brought after a married life of between five and twenty years, while the average length of this life in 1882 was ten and ninety-five one-hundredths years. Hence conviction is forced upon us that the causes, which affect marital happiness, are generally slow in their action and development, and that the domestic ties are strained for a long time before they are finally broken.

If the existing evils have been correctly indicated in the preceding paragraphs, what are the proper remedies for them? This is one of the most difficult of the social problems to solve; since it can find its elucidation only in a radical change in many of the usages of modern life. Legislative enactments can accomplish nothing in this direction, beyond protecting society, and the evils themselves can only suggest their own cures. It must be left to educators, to social scientists, to the church, and by no means last to parents, to apply the relief. Cultivate the domestic affections in the young, by making home attractive, no matter how humble it may be; provide amusements and instruction for the masses on all days of the week, particularly on Sunday, which is too often their only holiday; multiply coffee-houses and places for cheerful recreation, to check the spread of intemperance; encourage the promotion



of social clubs and the like in rural communities; in short, stamp out as far as possible the growing tendency to a selfish individualism, and the number of divorces will undoubtedly decrease in the future; cultivate and foster this individualism, and the existing evil, as great as it has become, will assuredly increase to still greater proportions.











